

Some observations on *Orgyia thyellina* Butler and *Orgyia antiqua* (L.)

By SIR CYRIL CLARKE, K.B.E., F.R.S.*

Dr. H. B. D. Kettlewell¹, when commenting that females of the Japanese Vapourer *Orgyia thyellina* (from pupae which I sent him) assembled males of *Orgyia antiqua*, does not mention that this fact has been known for many years^{2, 3}. The phenomenon is in accord with the finding of full reciprocity of pheromone activity in the genus *Orgyia*⁴.

Hybrids between *O. thyellina* female and *O. antiqua* male and the reciprocal are also well documented^{2, 3, 5, 6} and so far I have found little upset in the sex ratio in the broods I have bred, and this is of interest because the haploid chromosome number is different (*antiqua* 14, *thyellina* 11)^{3, 6}. The F1 insects (which are intermediate in character) are said to be sterile⁵ or to have very reduced fecundity⁶.

The chief interest in these hybrids concerns the females. In pure *O. thyellina* these are either winged or wingless and the former are more likely to result from those larvae which are bred when the hours of daylight are increasing⁷. There may however in addition be a genetic component, and this is testable in the hybrids. For example, in the cross female *antiqua* X male *thyellina* the male might come from a winged or wingless mother. I have fertile eggs from both these crosses and further details, including chromosome and sex chromatin findings, will be published later.

The distribution of *O. thyellina* is given as Korea, the islands of Japan and Taiwan⁵, but there is no mention of China. I was in the Republic for part of July and August 1978 and took with me female pupae of *O. thyellina*. These emerged when I was in the north of the country but they failed to assemble any species of *Orgyia*. This may be because *O. thyellina* does not occur there, but I found a full grown Vapourer-like caterpillar on the Great Wall, and it produced (in China) a wingless female which looked very much like *antiqua* (but not like wingless *thyellina*). No males were attracted to it.

On my return home I found like Dr. Kettlewell, that my garden was full of *antiqua* males, assembling to *thyellina*.

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* Department of Genetics, University of Liverpool.

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CAMBERWELL BEAUTIES: NYMPHALIS ANTIOPA L. ON THE SAME DATE. — My aunt and uncle, Mr. and Mrs. S. Smith, reported to me seeing a large chocolate brown butterfly with cream borders in their garden at Peterborough on August 29th 1979. The butterfly was immediately recognised as 'different' and was on Daphne Neapolitan Collis, whilst about 10-12 Peacocks (*Inachis io*) disported on Buddleja. On calling my aunt, the butterfly moved to a glass roof and thence to a wall. It was of special interest that the local 1.00 news mentioned that a rare warm air-stream was reaching East Anglia from Scandinavia (a stronghold of *antiopa*).

It is something of coincidence that this year I was lucky enough to see my first *antiopa* whilst walking the circular Tour du Mont Blanc near Chamonix. This was also on August 29th. — MICHAEL R. BRITTON, 27 Patricia Close, Slough, SL1 5HT, Berks.

A LATE DATE FOR THE OLD LADY: MORMO MAURA (L.).— On the 14th October at a light in a toilet block at Haywards Heath, Sussex I found a fresh specimen of this moth. On checking both my own and other records I cannot find a date for this species as late as this. — D. DEY, 9 Monmouth Close, Rainham, Gillingham, Kent.

THE DOTTED RUSTIC: RHYACIA SIMULANS (HUFNAGEL) IN KENT IN 1979. — In a wood at Wilmington, W. Kent, on 6th July 1979, I collected during the daytime a fine specimen of this moth which had flown up after being disturbed. — A. G. J. BUTCHER, The Fairway, Rochester, Kent [This is only the second record of this moth in Kent. I have seen the specimen which is paler than the rather dark example taken in 1978 by Dr. Watkinson at Boughton-under-Blean (cf. *Ent. Rec.*, **90**: 324). — J.M.C.-H.]

THE FIRST KENT RECORD OF JUDOLIA CERAMBYCIFORMIS SCHK. (COL.: CERAMBYCIDAE). — This attractive Lepturine longicorn is a typically western species in our islands, becoming increasingly local and sporadic towards the south-east. There are several scattered records for Sussex, mostly recent; for Surrey I know only of two (one old) both on the western side, and none (published) for Kent. That the beetle does reach into the west of this county, however, is shown by the capture of a specimen in a wooded part of Squerries Park, Westerham, in May or early June 1960 by my friend A. W. Gould. Here it probably attains its eastern limit in Britain. — A. A. ALLEN.